

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A defibrillator device comprising a casing having a carrying handle and further containing electrical circuitry for generating in use a defibrillation voltage for application to a patient, a control system for controlling operation of said defibrillator device, and a detector means which is associated with at least one region of said casing and which is responsive to at least one of touching by, handling by, or proximity of, an operator, said control system being responsive in use to said detector means to change the operational status of said defibrillator device from a first state to a second state on detection of an operator, wherein said detector means is associated with said carrying handle or an adjacent region on said casing, whereby the operational status of the device is changed in use when the handle is grabbed by the operator.

2. (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said detectors means is one or more selected from the group comprising microswitches, IR detectors, capacitive sensors, and membrane switches.

4. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~or each~~ detector means defines a sensing region on said casing.

5. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the or each detector means comprises a proximity detector.

6. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said detector means comprises a contact detector.

7. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said control system is operable on sustained detectors of an operator to change the operational states of said defibrillator device from said second state to a different state.

8. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said first state is an Off state.

9. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said first state is a quiescent or sleep state.

10. (Original) A defibrillator device according to Claim 9, wherein said control system is operational periodically to initiate a self-check routine during said sleep state.

11. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said second state is an On state.

12. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein said second state is a self-test state in which said control system initiates a self-test routine.

13. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein following detection of an operator and changing of the operational status of the defibrillator to said second state, the control system is operable to change the operational status of the defibrillator device to a different state on sustained detection of said operator beyond a preset period.

14. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein, following detection of an operator, the control system is operable to change the operational status of the device to a different state if no further detection is detected within a preset period.

15. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the defibrillator device includes means for issuing instructions to an operator following detection by said detector means.

16. (Original) A defibrillator device according to Claim 15, wherein said means for issuing instructions comprises

at least one of a loudspeaker or a display on the defibrillator device.

17. (Original) A defibrillator device according to Claim 16, wherein the control system is operable to issue an instruction to the operator to connect a further item of equipment, on detecting absence of an operator following the change from said first operational state to a second operational state.

18. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 16, wherein the control system is operable to issue an instruction for the operator to touch or trip a further sensor on detecting absence of the operator following said change from said first operational state to said second operational state.

19. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, which includes one or more attitude sensors for detecting ~~the attitude~~ the attitude of the casing and for supplying the corresponding attitude signals to said control system.

20. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein after application of a defibrillation voltage in use to a patient, detection by said detector means of the presence or absence of operator causes the device to provide and/or store post-rescue data.

21. (currently amended) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the defibrillator device includes means for storing data relating to the operation of the device, wherein detection by said detector means of the presence or absence of operator causes the device to provide and/or store post-rescue data.

22. (previously presented) A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the defibrillator device includes means for storing data relating to the operation of the device following the application of a defibrillation voltage to a patient, and said control system is responsive to a signal from said detector means to apply a compression algorithm to said stored data.